

April 4, 2006

Honorable James Inhofe, Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
SD-410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable James Jeffords, Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
SD-410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Lincoln Chafee, Chairman
Fisheries, Wildlife & Water Subcommittee
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
SD-410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Hillary Clinton, Ranking Member
Fisheries, Wildlife & Water Subcommittee
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
SD-410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Michael Crapo
United State Senate
SD-239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Blanche L. Lincoln
United State Senate
SD-355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inhofe, Jeffords, Chafee, Clinton, Crapo, and Lincoln:

At its recently concluded spring meeting in Columbus, Ohio the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies moved to express to you our sincere and ardent interest in the Senate arriving at an Endangered Species Act (ESA) reauthorization bill that reflects the full Senate's interest and that can thus achieve broad bipartisan support. As you know, we continue to work closely with your respective staff toward that objective. Although your staff have these, I am including for ready reference a copy of the IAFWA ESA reauthorization principles which we believe charts a road - map for improvements to the Act that enhance both species and habitat conservation and landowner cooperation. As you are aware, all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies are members of IAFWA.

The Association finds much favor with S2110, the bill from Senator Crapo and Senator Lincoln. We would encourage that any Environment and Public Works Committee bill ultimately assimilate the provisions in S2110. We believe that the process improvements for species listing and recovery, enabling greater cooperation and coordination with states, and the incentives to landowners that offer conservation banking opportunities and tax deductions, are very germane to the objective of enhancing conservation and landowner participation.

Thank you for your interest in our perspectives and please let Gary Taylor, (202) 624-7890 gtaylor@iafwa.org, Legislative Director, know how we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cooper", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

John Cooper, President
IAFWA, and Secretary, South Dakota Game,
Fish and Parks Department

Cc: State Fish and Wildlife Directors